



WEDNESFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

# Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

WILLIAM BENTLEY

FOR THE YEAR 1941

N. BUDD & SON, PRINTERS

WOLVERHAMPTON:

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1941.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of WEDNESFIELD.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the District for the year ending December 31st, 1941.

The Birth-rate was 27.59 per 1,000 of the population.

The Death-rate was 10.41 per 1,000 of the population.

The Infant Mortality rate is 67.27 compared with 64.51 in 1940

The Infant Mortality for England & Wales was 50.

Combined with my report is that of your Sanitary Inspector,

In conclusion I would like to express thanks to all those who have co-operated in the work of the Health Department during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM BENTLEY,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

# OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT:—

*Medical Officer of Health* W. BENTLEY, L.M.S.S.A.

<i>Sanitary Inspector</i>	}	L. G. HUMPHRIS, CERT. S.I.B.
<i>Meat &amp; Foods Inspector</i>	}	M.R.SAN.I., C.R.S.I., (Meat & Foods)

*Health Visitors* ... Miss L. M. TAYLOR  
Mrs. HARRISON.

AREA	...	...	...	2,515 acres
POPULATION (estimated)			...	15,270
INHABITED HOUSES	...		...	4,266
RATEABLE VALUE	...		...	£59,424
GENERAL RATE	...		...	13/8
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE				£221

## ADOPTION ACTS, &c.

Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890, Part III.

Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, Act 1907, Part II (other than Sections 23, 24 and 27), III, IV, V, VI, and Section 95 comprised in Part X.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 21 and Part V.

As to parts of the District, the Council is invested with the powers granted to a Rural District Council by section 6 of the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878.

# VITAL STATISTICS.

## LIVE BIRTHS.

MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL		RATE
L	I	L	I	L	I	PER 1000
169	-	153	5	322	5	27.59

## STILLBIRTHS

6       -       3       -       9       -

## DEATHS

MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	RATE PER 1000
99	60	159	10.41

## INFANT MORTALITY

*Deaths under one year.*

MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL		RATE
L	I	L	I	L	I	PER 1000
16	-	6	-	22	-	67.27

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth

From Sepsis                      -                      ONE

From other causes               -                      NIL



## INFANT MORTALITY during Year 1941.

Causes of Death	Total under one year	Under 1 day	1 to 7 days	7 to 14 days	14 to 28 days	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months
Prematurity	...	2...	...	3...	...	1			
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2...	1		
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	1			
Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	2			
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	1		
Convulsions	...	...	...	1...	...	1...	...	...	1
Congenital Malformation	...	...	1						
Congenital Heart Disease	...	...	1						
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	2						
Overlying	...	...	...	...	...	1			
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	1			
TOTALS	22...	2...	4...	4...	...	9...	2...	...	1



# CAUSES OF DEATH IN WEDNESFIELD U.D.

CAUSES OF DEATH	1937		1938		1939		1940		1941	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
All Causes.	77	59	59	55	68	70	88	70	99	60
	136		114		138		158		159	
Enteric Fever ...										
Small Pox ...										
Measles ...										
Scarlet Fever ...					1					1
Whooping Cough ...		1	2	1		2				1
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup ...	2						1	1	1	3
Influenza ...	2					1	1			
Encephalitis Lethargica ...			1							
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...								1	1	
Meningococcal Meningitis ...										
Syphilis ...			1					1	1	
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	10	1	4	2	5	3	5	4	7	3
Other Forms ...			2	1		1	2		3	
Cancer Malignant Disease ...	4	6	6	5	4	10	6	6	15	3
Aneurysm ...	2		1							
Diabetes ...	1	2			1	3		2		
G.P.I. Tabes &c. ...		1								
Cerebral Hæmorrhage...	4	4		6	3	2	10	8	7	10
Heart Disease ...	10	11	9	9	23	19	20	19	18	13
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	2	1	2	1	2	1				1
Bronchitis ...	3	2	3	1		2	6	3	4	1
Pneumonia, all forms ...	4	4	9	9	3	2	9	4	8	9
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	2	1		1		1	2	2	
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	1	1			1		1		1	
Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...			2			1	2		1	1
Appendicitis ...		1	3		1	1			1	
Cirrhosis of Liver ...										
Other Diseases of Liver, &c. ...		1		1		2				
Other digestive diseases ...		1	2			2	3	3	3	3
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	3	2		2	2		2	1		1
Puerperal Sepsis ...		1								1
Other Diseases and accidents of Pregnancy and Parturition ...				1		3		2		
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Births ...	11	6	8	4	10	3	6	8	10	4
Road Accidents ...										4
Suicide ...	1				1					
Other Deaths from Violence ...	4	4		1	4	2	3		6	
Other Defined Diseases ...	5	3	1	10	5	8	10	5	6	5
Causes ill defined or unknown ...										
Estimated Population ...	12,960		13,920		14,630		14,830		15,270	
Total Deaths ...	136		114		138		158		159	
Death Rate ...	10.49		8.19		9.43		10.65		10.41	

## SECTION B.

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### **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA**

#### **Laboratory Facilities**

Diphtheria swabs and other specimens are sent to the County Bacteriological Laboratory at Stafford and to the Pathological Laboratory at the Royal Hospital for examination.

#### **Ambulance Facilities**

For the removal of infectious cases an ambulance is provided by the hospital authorities who take the patient.

#### **Nursing in the Home**

Wednesfield Nursing Association, an organisation supported by voluntary contributions, provides one nurse who gives professional service to necessitous non-infectious cases. When infectious cases are kept at home the mother of the patient usually acts as nurse, under the direction of the medical attendant.

#### **Maternity and Child Welfare**

Under the direction of the Staffordshire County Council a Welfare Centre is held at the Wesleyan Sunday School, Well Lane. Valuable advice and assistance may be obtained free at this Centre. The times of attendance are as follows :—

##### **INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.**

2 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Weekly.

##### **ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.**

2 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Fortnightly.

Children attending the Infant Welfare Centre can be referred to an Ophthalmic Surgeon, and for orthopædic treatment and dental treatment under the County Council's schemes. Dental treatment is also provided for expectant and nursing mothers.

Dried milks stocked at the Centre and at the Food Office and retailed at reduced cost prices under the National Scheme.

From time to time lectures on mothercraft are given



## **Hospitals.**

On October 1st the Joint Hospital Board opened Moxley Hospital for the reception of cases of Infectious Disease. This is a great improvement on our previous arrangements when we had to rely on outside Authorities to take our cases.

## **Smallpox**

Provision is made under the South Staffordshire Joint Smallpox Board.

## **Maternity**

By arrangement with the County Council the Royal Hospital Wolverhampton will take difficult cases requiring hospital treatment.

Three Registered Midwives reside within the District.

## **Medical and Surgical**

The Royal Hospital, the Women's Hospital, and the Eye Infirmary, Wolverhampton, are all within easy distance.

Wordsley Hospital is also available for patients who cannot obtain accommodation elsewhere.

## **Sanitary Circumstances**

Combined with this report is that of your Sanitary Inspector it has been found much more suitable to the setting out of the Reports to combine the two rather than separate them.

## **Water**

The supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes is good and adequate and is obtained from Wolverhampton Corporation.

## SUMMARY

Notices served requiring repairs and abatement of Nuisances				75
Outstanding at end of year	...	...	...	7
Number of inspections—Housing		...	...	1954
Slaughterhouses and Offensive Trades		...	...	37
Other inspections—Nuisances etc.	...	...	...	580
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	45
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	63
Visits in case of infectious Disease			...	125
Disinfections	...	...	...	112
Disinfestations	...	...	...	5
Choked drains	...	...	...	208
Bedding etc. destroyed at owners request		...	...	3 lots



## **Eradication of Bed Bugs**

Number of Council houses disinfested	...	...	1
Number of other houses disinfested	...	...	1
Method used, Insecticide Spray			
Insecticide used " Clymax "			

## **Schools**

There are now seven Public Elementary Schools within the District, all these have a satisfactory supply of water piped from the mains and the sanitary conditions are generally good.

### **1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	792
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose				...	2378
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925					246
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose				...	360
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	—
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the proceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation				...	126

### **2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal notices.**

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	..	...	...	48
---	-----	----	-----	-----	----

### 3 Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

#### A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	37
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—			
(a)	by Owners	...	...	32
(b)	by Local Authority in default of Owners	...		5

#### B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	33
(2)	Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—		
(a)	by Owners	...	33
(b)	by Local Authority in default of Owners	...	—

#### C.—Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	—
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	—

#### D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	...	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	—

**Housing Act, 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding:—**

(a)	1	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of year	6
	2	Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	6
	3	Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	40
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	1
(c)	1	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	—
	2	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	6

## HOUSING ACT 1936

### **Progress under Slum Clearance Schemes.**

**Position according to registers at 21st December 1941.**

#### **Houses in Clearance Areas**

Orchard Buildings	...	...	...	14
Rickyard	...	...	...	8
High Street	...	...	...	7
				<hr/> 29

#### **Individual Unfit Houses**

Number on Register	...	...	...	37
				<hr/> 66

Number of houses provided	...	...	...	30
Undertakings from owners accepted	...	...	...	9
Cases where re-housing has not been necessary	...	...	...	9
Number of houses required at 31st December 1941	...	...	...	18
				<hr/> 66



## **SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1938**

Two licenses to slaughter and stun animals were granted during the year.

## **CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOODS ADULTERATION, Etc.**

Samples of Foods and Drugs are taken by the County Council for examination, they being the responsible Authority.

## **MILK SUPPLY**

Building development has taken its toll of the grazing land in the district, with the result that the number of Dairy Farms is now reduced to sixteen, these are kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector.

## **DESIGNATED MILK**

Eight Supplementary Licenses and two Dealers Licenses to sell Designated Milk within the District during the year, were issued all supplies being obtained from other districts. The grades for which licenses were granted were as follows :—

PASTEURISED	...	...	5
TUBERCULIN TESTED		...	3
ACCREDITED	...	...	2

# CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notified during 1941.

DISEASES	Number of Cases Notified.												Total Cases admitted to Hospital
	Age Periods—Years.												
	All ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 upwards	
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	... 43 ...	...	8	10	12	4	5	3	1	...	...	...	... 36
Erysipelas	... 4 ...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	... 59 ...	...	4	28	18	...	4	3	2	...	...	...	... 5
Ophthalmia	... 4 ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	... 1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	... 17 ...	...	...	...	1	1	4	5	3	2	1	...	...
Other Forms	... 4 ...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	... 2 ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	... 2
Puerperal Fever	... 1 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	... 1
Pneumonia	... 14 ...	...	3	...	...	1	1	1	3	1	4	...	... 3
Whooping Cough	... 39 ...	...	30	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	... 129 ...	...	30	60	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	... 316 ...	4	75	108	72	7	17	13	9	3	8	...	48

**SMALLPOX.** No case was notified.

**SCARLET FEVER.** 59 cases were notified compared with 16 in 1940. One death occurred.

**DIPHTHERIA.** 43 cases were noted throughout the year as against 23 in 1940. The cases were evenly distributed throughout the District. There were 4 deaths from the disease. 135 swabs from suspected cases were examined, 40 of these gave positive results, Immunisation against this disease is now available.

During the year 169 school children completed the course of immunisation and 68 had been inoculated but had not completed the course. 224 children of pre-school age also completed the course, and 28 more had commenced but not completed the course.



**ENTERIC FEVER.** No case occurred.

**MEASLES.** 129 cases were notified. No death occurred.

**WHOOPING COUGH** 39 cases were notified. One death occurred.

**TUBERCULOSIS.** At the end of the year there remained on the register 79 persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 47 males and 32 females, and 49 persons, 24 males and 25 females, suffering from other forms of Tuberculosis, a total on the register of 128. From the following table it will be seen that 10 deaths were registered as due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 3 deaths occurred from other forms of Tuberculosis. 16 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year and 4 other forms, 7 of the pulmonary cases were admitted to sanatoria.

## TUBERCULOSIS, New Cases and Mortality during 1941

Age Periods— Years.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pul.		Non. Pul.		Pul.		Non. Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 to 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 to 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 to 10	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
10 to 15	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 to 20	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...
20 to 25	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 to 35	4	...	1	...	2	1	...	...
35 to 45	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...
45 to 55	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
55 to 65	1	...	...	1	2	2	...	1
65 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	10	6	3	1	7	3	2	1

The Sanatoria for the district are :—

For Males Prestwood Sanatorium and Edge View Tuberculosis Hospital

For Females, Groundslow and Yarnfield

For Children, The Limes Sanatorium, Himley

**ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA** no case occurred.

**INFLUENZA & PNEUMONIA.** During the year 14 cases of Pneumonia were notified as against 8 in 1940 and 10 in 1939. There were 10 deaths due to this cause as against 5 in 1940. No death occurred from Influenza.

**CANCER.** 18 deaths occurred from this disease during the year, 15 males and 3 females.

### Ages and Parts Affected.

PARTS AFFECTED	20 — 30		30 — 40		40 — 50		50 — 60		60 — 70		70 —		TOTAL
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
BREAST ...	...	...	...	1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...1...
LIVER ...	...	...	...	...	1...	...	...	...	1...	...	...	...	...2...
RECTUM ...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	2...	...	...2 ..
STOMACH ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	...	...	1...	...	...2...
COLON ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2...	...	1...	...	...3...
LUNG ...	1...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	...	...	...	...	...	...2...
CAECUM ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	...	...1...
LIP ...	...	...	...	...	1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...1...
MEDIASTINUM ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	...	...	...1...
PROSTATE ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	...	...	...1...
BRAIN ...	1...	...	...	...	...	1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...2...
	2...	...	...	1...	2...	1...	1...	1...	3...	3...	4...	...	...18...



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

YEAR	CASES NOTIFIED												DEATHS											
	Pneumonia	Puerperal Sepsis	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Malaria	Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Forms	Encephalitis Lethargica	Anthrax	Pneumonia	Puerperal Sepsis	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Malaria	Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Forms	Encephalitis Lethargica	Anthrax
1930	28	1	26	1	-	3	3	-	9	3	-	-	12	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-
1931	10	3	17	2	-	2	1	-	10	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-
1932	10	4	30	-	-	6	4	-	6	4	1	-	9	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
1933	13	4	81	2	-	4	5	-	12	5	1	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	5	1	-
1934	14	1	96	1	-	9	3	-	15	4	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	5	-	-
1935	32	3	44	6	-	18	1	-	12	2	-	-	11	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	1	-	-
1936	21	3	47	2	-	11	2	-	10	7	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	6	-	-	-
1937	15	2	22	5	-	14	6	-	21	4	-	-	8	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	11	-	-	-
1938	27	5	46	5	-	7	3	1	19	7	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	1	-
1939	10	4	35	6	-	12	3	-	14	4	-	-	5	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	8	1	-	-
1940	8	2	16	2	-	23	1	-	11	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	9	2	-	-
1941	14	3	59	4	-	43	4	-	17	4	-	-	10	1	1	-	-	4	-	-	10	3	-	-

# INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and the Factories Act, 1937 (which superseded the Act of 1901 on 1st July, 1938).

## 1—INSPECTIONS

for purposes of provisions as to health.  
Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors

Premises, (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power ...	87...	3...	
Factories without mechanical power ...	4...		
† Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises).			
Total ...	91...	3...	

## 2—DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1) ...	...	...	...	
Overcrowding (S. 2) ...	...	...	...	
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...	...	...	...	
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) ...	...	...	...	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	...	...	...	
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) insufficient ...	3...	3...		
unsuitable or defective ...	2...	2...		
not separate for sexes ...				
Other offences ... (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
Total ...	5...	5...		



